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25 February 1949

INFORMAL MEMO FOR: THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: An Idea for Furthering Centralization  
of all Intelligence

1. Colonel Blakeney has become quite discouraged over the efficient operation and effectiveness of the Standing Committee and the IAC (as who has not!!).

2. He (who is leaving us for Japan before long!) offers the attached "idea," which Captain Doan and I admit is an interesting idea.

3. For obvious reasons, which you will recognize in reading it over, ICAPS is NOT offering it as a formal or informal "proposal." It is, nevertheless, an idea which may be useful to you to counter-act the Navy's idea of the IAC becoming supreme. If there is one extreme we might as well point out the other extreme. And, who knows what may develop by 1975!!?

PRESCOTT CHILDS  
Chief, ICAPS

Enclosure: February 24th Draft re Centralization

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*Rephrased*  
*File*  
DRAFT - 24 February 1949  
Col. Blakeney

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: An Idea for Furthering Centralization of all Intelligence

REFERENCE A: DCI Memo, subject, "Medical Intelligence," dated 21 February 1949 for the Secretary of Defense

REFERENCE B: The Dulles Report

1. We in ICAPS have been discussing with the Army and the Air Force the background behind the agreement contained in reference memo. It is our understanding that the Secretary of Defense and the three chiefs of the Service Intelligence agencies have agreed that this particular item of intelligence should be centralized (largely because of inadequacies in available personnel).

2. Our reading of the memo admits no ifs, ands, or buts to the responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence concerning Medical Intelligence as a result of this memo.

3. It appears to us, ~~therefore~~, that a precedent has been established and, therefore, an opening wedge entered for the Director of Central Intelligence to take over the direction or operational control of the intelligence echelons of the Service Departments, and in consequence, make him, the DCI, the intelligence echelon for the Secretary of Defense, who now has none.

4. Using the Medical Intelligence precedent, an eventual result might be that the intelligence echelons of the Service Departments and the Department of State, as presently organized, or considerably reduced, could

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become a part of a "Research and Reports Division," as visualized in the

Dulles Report. These four agencies could then furnish very high grade

talent to an "Estimates Division" for the production of national intelli-

*based on the information in & furnished by the R & R Div. and*  
gence, in response to any request emanating from the President, the Secretary

of State, the Secretary of Defense, or the Chiefs of the military elements

of the Service Departments. These estimates could be produced by the

Estimates Division, presenting a coordinated viewpoint, because of single

direction at the head, with the active (or passive) participation of the

Intelligence Advisory Committee.

5. It is visualized that the present Chiefs of Intelligence would continue to be the intelligence advisors to their respective departments, but would be supported by the combined efforts of all under the direction of the Central Intelligence Agency.

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